



Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

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MILWAUKEE COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS PRAISE HISTORIC AGREEMENT; BOARD WILL TAKE NEXT STEP FORWARD TO PROTECT WAR MEMORIAL, ART MUSEUM

(MILWAUKEE) – (July 23, 2013) – Milwaukee County Board Chairwoman Marina Dimitrijevic, along with Supervisors Gerry Broderick and John Weishan, today announced that a new agreement between The Milwaukee Art Museum and The Milwaukee County War Memorial, Inc. will help ensure the long-term vitality of the buildings and grounds of both organizations.

Under the compromise, the War Memorial Center/Milwaukee Art Museum will receive \$1,586,000 per year from the County from 2014 through 2023. This includes an investment of \$1,100,000 to the Art Museum and \$486,000 to the War Memorial. The annual funding commitment ends after the ten-year period, but the other portions of the agreement could extend for up to 84 years.

County capital improvement funding of \$10 million between 2013 and 2017 will supplement the Art Museum's planned private funding of \$15 million for a total \$25 million investment in improvements to the publically-owned portions of the War Memorial and Art Museum buildings and grounds.

Supervisors Weishan and Broderick, members of the Committee on Parks, Energy and Environment, praised the accord.

"This is a historic agreement because not only do both organizations benefit, but all of Milwaukee County benefits," Weishan said. "This is especially a victory for veterans because the pact promises to keep the War Memorial as a tribute to their selfless actions in service to our country."

Broderick said the pact would help preserve both institutions for generations to come.

"This agreement is the product of leadership and vision by all who were involved," Broderick said. "The Art Museum is a true jewel that is known world-wide as a symbol of Milwaukee, and the War Memorial honors those who made the ultimate sacrifice."

Dimitrijevic said that she was pleased to help assuring the pact was reached when she asked former Supreme Court Justice Janine Geske to mediate talks after the two groups had reached an impasse.

"I believe that having Justice Geske mediate the discussion between the two groups was a key to reaching this historic agreement," she said. "This is a win-win-win for the Milwaukee Art Museum, the War Memorial and the taxpayers of Milwaukee County. It's time to come together and make a long term commitment to our veterans and arts community. This investment will pay off for generations to come."

A special meeting of the Finance, Personnel and Audit committee will be held to consider the measure Thursday at 8 a.m. in the Courthouse before sending it to the Board at its 9:30 meeting.